

OPC Bulletin

In February, OPC Becomes Comedy Central

Got a good story about the most godforsaken place you ever traveled to for a scoop? How about your most creative expense account?

In late February, the OPC will host a festive evening featuring answers by foreign correspondents to these and other lighthearted questions. The occasion: An awards competition—of sorts.

Winners will receive prizes for the best responses to each of the following categories:

1. Most godforsaken place visited for a story
2. Strangest story ever covered
3. Greatest beat
4. Worst beat
5. Most fortuitous timing (i.e., arriving the day before the revolution, leaving just before the explosion, etc.)
6. Largest insect or most repugnant critter ever encountered in the line of duty (must describe)
7. Most creative expense account tale
8. Most bizarre ploy to get the story (threats, wild claims, false identities, fake calls from important contacts, etc.)
9. Most extreme, inventive or downright impressive measure taken to get the story to the home office (commandeering boats, posing as a pilot, "borrowing" equipment)
10. Most memorable watering hole.

The competition is open only to journalists who have been posted outside the U.S. at some point in their careers. But all OPC members are welcome at the awards evening.

Just send in your answers to Sonya Fry at the OPC no later than Jan. 31. Brevity as well as imagination will influence the judges. Good luck!

Vietnam Visit Triggers Emotions 20 Years Later



MISS SAIGON—Teresa Albor with Vietnamese children on location.

Teresa Albor, a longtime Manila-based correspondent, traveled to Saigon recently to shoot a documentary marking the 20th anniversary of America's withdrawal from Vietnam. Here she reflects on the visit.

By Teresa Albor

HO CHI MINH CITY—When I got the assignment to go to Vietnam and shoot as an independent alongside Peter Arnett's CNN crew, I pulled Stanley Karnow's *Vietnam* off the shelf and packed my bags. The U.S. Marines who were last off the U.S. Embassy roof on April 30, 1975 had been rounded up and were returning to be the stars of our show. These were the guys who were there at the end, the very end. ("We almost met," a Vietnamese general quipped to the Marines during one

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Experts Puncture Myths about Foreign Health Care Systems

Which nation's health system offers the best model for U.S. reformers?

At an OPC forum last month, health care experts from Germany and Britain urged Americans to think twice before modelling U.S. changes on their flawed European systems.

More than 50 people attended the Nov. 16 luncheon at Cornell Medical School. Among them: Canadian and Japanese government officials, physicians, nurses and medical students from several local hospitals, representatives of pharmaceutical and insurance com-

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President's Corner: Dialogue with a Russian Madman

By Bill Holstein

I always listen carefully when someone says my own publication, or the Western media writ large, has got something wrong. This is what Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the Russian opposition leader, says about nearly everything the outside world writes about him. He isn't really a neo-fascist. He really can govern one day.

So it was with great interest that a small band of us received him on Nov. 10 on his American tour. The lunch was organized with only a few hours notice, preventing notification to the entire OPC membership, but we mustered representatives from *Time*, CNN, AP, Reuters, and WPIX, as well as *Business Week*.

It all started rationally enough. Zhirinovsky, wearing an impeccably tailored suit, strode into the executive dining room at the McGraw-Hill Building, with four aides in his retinue, saying he wanted to concentrate on the Russian economy. He ordered a vodka, a Stolichniya. I didn't want to be rude. I ordered one as well.

The opening rhetoric was all predictable. When he takes power in the next election, Zhirinovsky will attack the "criminal elements" controlling Russia's government, cure inflation by re-imposing state control of industry, and put an end to the "nationalist

issue," a reference to the Azeris, Georgians, Jews, and others who have risen up to dominate large swathes of the Russian economy.

I wondered whether Zhirinovsky would be able to conceal what is obviously a sweeping agenda in the moderate language of "change." That seems to be one trick the great despots are able to pull off.

But soon the temperature at our lunch began rising. Zhirinovsky said he would "purge" 1 million officials when he took power.

"Oh, no, no, no," his handlers chimed in. "We don't mean purge. We just mean lay off."

Before long, Zhirinovsky proposed to us that he would need to create a "temporary authoritarian regime" to set the stage for market-oriented reforms.

And how long would that temporary regime last? "Two to 10 years," he replied.

During that period, all foreign joint ventures would have to renegotiate the terms of their contracts. Russian private capital would be excluded from the export sector. It went on and on. His "temporary" had a feel of permanence.

One could have given him the benefit of doubt—up to a certain point. The Russians are in a terrible mess and their government has failed them in so many ways. But as the lunch progressed, Zhirinovsky's body language and tone became more animated and voluble. It wasn't the vodka. He never finished his first one.

Somehow, we had punched his emotional button. Suddenly he was telling
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MAD VLAD—Vladimir Zhirinovsky makes a point, while Bill Holstein and a translator listen.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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us that the Soviets were forced to invade Afghanistan. That to me was proof of his mental condition. I was in Kabul in January 1990, and it was the raw face of Soviet aggression.

Or take Chernobyl. The nuclear disaster was really a plot of unspecified "special forces" within the KGB to destabilize the old regime. The same forces were behind the surprise arrival of the young German flyer in Red Square. Ditto for the insurrections in Eastern Europe. They were all instigated by the KGB to discredit and destroy the old Soviet regime. We had been plunged into a bizarre world of conspiracy and counter-conspiracy.

We all were left that day with one clear conviction: Zhirinovsky really is a nut. The only heart-warming part of it is that he seems to lack the steely self-control that is necessary to govern. If he ever does slip into supreme power in Russia, fasten your seat belts. It will be one hell of a ride.

Then and Now: U.S. Author Describes Days in Prague

Foreign correspondent Alan Levy discussed his past and present work in eastern Europe and his new book on Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal at an OPC luncheon last month.

Levy, a long-time OPC member, said he first moved to Prague in 1967 after a young Czech director named Milos Forman commissioned him to adapt a play. Shortly after his arrival, Czech leader Alexander Dubcek initiated a series of liberal reforms known as the "Prague Spring," which Levy

covered for *Life* magazine.

Then, in August 1968, Soviet tanks rolled in to the capital. "[Milos] Forman fled. I stayed," Levy said. He later wrote a book about the invasion called *Rowboat to Prague*, which resulted in his expulsion and deportation to Vienna. While in Vienna, a desire to address the Holocaust led him to write about Simon Wiesenthal, Levy said.

Of his new book, *The Wiesenthal File* (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, \$29.99), Levy says: "It is not a subtle book. I'm trying to communicate what happened to those [readers] who were not there."

Levy returned to Prague in late 1990. He is founding editor-in-chief of the English-language weekly newspaper, *The Prague Post*.



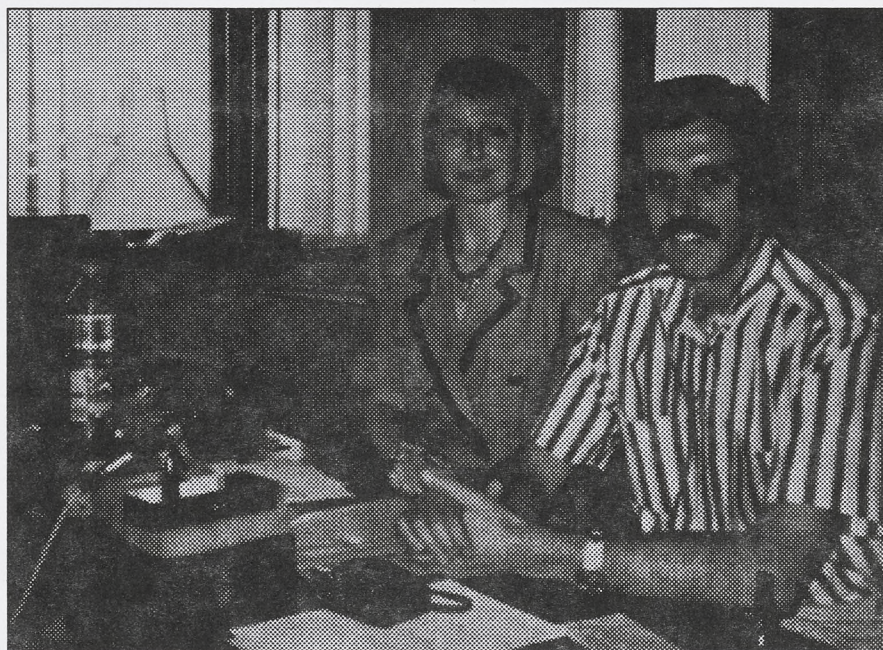
Alan Levy

Bulgaria Journal: Media Struggles Amid Daily Chaos

By Susan Ruel

The world is not exactly beating a path to Bulgaria's door. In fact, it's been more than a century since American foreign correspondents such as J.A. MacGahan made headlines in the London *Daily News* covering ethnic slaughter in this Balkan nation. But visiting Bulgaria's three largest cities in August and working with local reporters, I did encounter a few significant problems that afflict the media throughout the region.

Since the Velvet Revolution, Bulgarian journalists have been groping for ways to transcend the crushing legacy of totalitarian control. Not only are they trying to operate responsibly in the absence of press laws or ethical guidelines; they're also struggling to stay afloat in a chaotic economy still lurching toward privatization, while dodging threats by organized crime (known locally as "the Wrestlers"). Some are even beginning to confront their minority issues: for example, how to cover the one out of



ON THE AIR—Susan Ruel during an interview on Radio Express, a popular station in Sofia.

10 Bulgarians who are of Turkish or gypsy descent.

Although it shares a border with the former Yugoslavia, Bulgaria today is no tinderbox of ethnic conflict. Despite lingering bitterness over 500 years of Ottoman Turk rule, Bulgaria has a tradition of tolerance. It was one of the

only nations in Europe that didn't hand over Jews to the Nazis.

Paper is expensive, so radio is the medium of choice. Radio reporters—mostly women chosen for their sultry voices—labor in deplorable conditions, with many required to operate an open

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PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

BERLIN: Peter Gumbel is *The Wall Street Journal's* new Germany bureau chief, based in Berlin.

BRUSSELS: Terry Roth is the *Journal's* new bureau chief in Brussels.

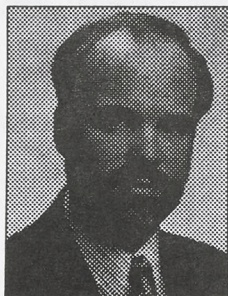
HONG KONG: Stephen Vines, editor-in-chief of Hong Kong's newest daily, *Eastern Express*, was fired this autumn after the newspaper published several articles unfriendly to communist China.

NEW YORK: Janice Castro, an associate editor at *Time*, will become editor of *Time Daily*, a new online news publication of Time Inc., on Jan. 1. Of her new task, Castro says she's looking forward to pioneering a new form of electronic publishing: "We're going to boldly go where no media monster has gone before." She will still write for the magazine, but less.



Janice Castro

For anyone who ever witnessed H.L. Stevenson storming into the newsroom at UPI, scowling over the top of his bifocals, the very concept of him having a heart attack is improbable. Yet Stevenson, a past OPC President, did suffer a minor heart attack on Nov. 3 at his home in Rye, New York. He was home by Nov. 9 and busy organizing the OPC Foundation scholarship judging process as well as a scholarship luncheon set for the last week of January. Stevenson avers that he has given up smoking and plans "to eat a little better and exercise more." In that sense, the small heart attack is "a blessing," he says.



Michael Hirsch

Michael Hirsch has joined *Newsweek* as a senior writer for the international edition. Previously, he worked as *Institutional Investor's* Asia bureau chief since 1992.

Jolie Solomon, a writer for *Newsweek's* business section for the past two years, has been named deputy chief of correspondents. She will assist chief of correspondents Ann McDaniel, who oversees the magazines's 10 domestic and 16 foreign bureaus.

MOSCOW: Claudia Rosett begins her stint as *The Wall Street Journal's* Moscow bureau chief this month.

PARIS: Tom Kamm is now the *Journal's* Paris bureau chief, after several years in Latin America.

SEOUL: Paul Alexander, the AP's correspondent in Warsaw, has been named acting bureau chief in Seoul, South Korea. He will head the Korean operation for several months while the present bureau chief, Kelly Smith Tunney, is on disability leave to recuperate from back surgery.

TOKYO: Bill Shinn, who covered the Korean War for AP and then report-

ed for other media from Japan for many years, planned to leave Tokyo in November to relocate to Los Angeles. There he will rework his Korean-language book on the war into English.

DECEASED: Howard Handleman, the first president of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan, died Aug. 10 of congestive heart failure. He worked 23 years for the old International News Service and 17 years for *U.S. News & World Report*.

NEW MEMBERS: Peter J. Gardner, publisher and editor-in-chief of *The Northern Centinel* in Kinderhook, NY (active resident).

Susan Schiffer Stautberg, president and CEO of Mastermedia Ltd., a New York publishing firm with a speaker's bureau (associate resident).

Todd D. Shapera, coordinator of overseas media coverage for Scudder, Stevens & Clark in New York (associate resident).

Aimee H. Laurel, president of The Icon Group, a New York-based agency specializing in foreign government consultation (affiliate).

Tales of a Rome Correspondent

John Moody of Time returned to New York recently after spending the last nine years in Latin America and Italy. Here he recalls some experiences from his Rome assignment.

By John Moody

The fall of Italy's Christian Democrat-Socialist alliance, which had ruled the country for 45 years, began with the arrest of an obscure municipal official of Milan who was accused of taking kickbacks, or in local parlance, *tangenti*. Possessing pretty awful Italian, it took me weeks to muster up the courage to ask several colleagues what the word meant, only to find out that no one else knew either. By the end of 1992, everyone knew what the word meant, and a year after that, Italy's cozy system of institutionalized corruption was on its way out.

I was fortunate to have as a primary source a flamboyant billionaire named Silvio Berlusconi. I met him early in my tour because I was writing a story about the soccer team he owned. When he became prime minister after this year's national elections,

he gave *Time* one of a handful of interviews before deciding that the media was out to get him.

I was also fortunate to make several trips with the papal press corps, an assortment of characters that rivals the White House Zoo Plane any day. In April 1993, I figured I'd outfox everyone else and travel to the pope's



John Moody

destination, Albania, ahead of the pack. I found myself in Tirana without a hotel room. No problem, said the smiling taxi driver who spotted me standing in the airport arrivals lounge, looking

very foreign and desperate. He knew a great place where I could stay, and cheap too. The luxurious digs consisted of two musty and corroded rooms with an open toilet, and belonged to his father, whom the cabbie chucked out of his own home. Fortunately, the pope stayed only one day.

1994 AWARDS COMPETITION

Annual awards for newspaper, magazine, wire service, radio, television, cartoon, book, and photographic reporting and/or interpretation from abroad—published or broadcast in the United States during the calendar year 1994

ENTRY DEADLINE — JANUARY 31, 1995

AWARDS DINNER — APRIL 26, 1995

NOMINEE

ORGANIZATION NAME

NOMINEE'S ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

TITLE OF ENTRY

ENTERED FOR THIS CATEGORY
(See below for definitions and explanations)

DATE(S) OF PUBLICATION OR BROADCAST

SUBMITTED BY:
(Name, Address, Phone Number of Person or Organization)

Each entry is to be accompanied by check or money order for \$50 to cover handling costs

Please make check payable to Overseas Press Club.

(If candidate is nominated for more than one category, separate entry blank, exhibits, should accompany each entry.)

ENTRIES CANNOT BE RETURNED. ENTRIES WILL BE DESTROYED AFTER JUDGING IS COMPLETED.

\$1,000 AWARDS FOR ALL CATEGORIES

- ☐ **CLASS ONE**
THE HAL BOYLE AWARD
Sponsored by AT&T
Best daily newspaper or wire service
REPORTING from abroad
- ☐ **CLASS TWO**
THE BOB CONSIDINE AWARD
Sponsored by King Features Syndicate
Best daily newspaper or wire service
INTERPRETATION on foreign affairs
- ☐ **CLASS THREE**
THE ROBERT CAPA GOLD MEDAL AWARD
Sponsored by Life Magazine
Best **PHOTOGRAPHIC** reporting from abroad requiring exceptional courage and enterprise
- ☐ **CLASS FOUR**
THE OLIVER REBBOT AWARD
Sponsored by Newsweek
Best **PHOTOGRAPHY** in magazine and books
- ☐ **CLASS FIVE**
THE EASTMAN KODAK AWARD
Sponsored by Eastman Kodak
Best **PHOTOGRAPHY** in newspapers and wire services
- ☐ **CLASS SIX**
THE BEN GRAUER AWARD
Sponsored by NYNEX
Best **RADIO SPOT NEWS** from abroad

- ☐ **CLASS SEVEN**
THE LOWELL THOMAS AWARD
Sponsored by Capital Cities/ABC News
Best **RADIO INTERPRETATION** of foreign affairs
- ☐ **CLASS EIGHT**
THE DAVID KAPLAN AWARD
Sponsored by Capital Cities/ABC News
Best **TV SPOT NEWS** reporting from abroad
- ☐ **CLASS NINE**
THE EDWARD R. MURROW AWARD
Sponsored by CBS News
Best **TV INTERPRETATION** or **DOCUMENTARY** on foreign affairs
- ☐ **CLASS TEN**
THE ED CUNNINGHAM MEMORIAL AWARD
Sponsored by Mead Data Central
Best **MAGAZINE** reporting from abroad
- ☐ **CLASS ELEVEN**
THE NEWSDAY/CARTOON AWARD
Sponsored by Newsday
Best **CARTOON** on foreign affairs
- ☐ **CLASS TWELVE**
THE MORTON FRANK AWARD
Sponsored by the Children of Morton Frank
Best **BUSINESS** reporting from abroad in **MAGAZINES**

- ☐ **CLASS THIRTEEN**
THE MALCOLM FORBES AWARD
Sponsored by Forbes Magazine
Best **BUSINESS** reporting from abroad in **NEWSPAPERS** or **WIRE SERVICES**
- ☐ **CLASS FOURTEEN**
THE CARL SPIELVOGEL AWARD
Best **BUSINESS** and/or **FINANCIAL** reporting in the broadcast media
- ☐ **CLASS FIFTEEN**
THE CORNELIUS RYAN AWARD
Sponsored by Anita Diamant Literary Agency
Best non-fiction **BOOK** on foreign affairs
- ☐ **CLASS SIXTEEN**
THE MADELINE DANE ROSS AWARD
Best **FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT** in any medium showing a concern for the human condition
- ☐ **CLASS SEVENTEEN**
THE ERIC AND AMY BURGER AWARD
Sponsored by The Estate of Eric and Amy Burger
Best **REPORTING** in any medium dealing with **HUMAN RIGHTS**
- ☐ **CLASS EIGHTEEN**
THE WHITMAN BASSOW AWARD
Sponsored by AT&T
Best **REPORTING** in any medium on **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

Bulgaria Journal: Media Struggles Amid Daily Chaos

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mike for 10 hours a day. A couple of broadcast journalists from the port city of Borgas collapsed from exhaustion during our seminar in picturesque Plovdiv. More than one said they had been fired for covering the corruption scandals of mayors and other local politicians.

A less serious, but no less noticeable occupational hazard is the airing of talk radio shows with a phone system that loses as many calls as it puts through—at least when I was interviewed on-air. It's baffling how any reporter can operate with such shaky telephone service, but they've been doing it for years in this part of the world.

Before 1989, Bulgarian journalists were required to have advanced degrees, and many were members of the secret police. Now the pendulum has swung the other way. Members of "Generation X" without much education are the preferred hires at the country's most popular publication, *24 Hours*. Newspapers are forced to go yellow to survive, printing soft-porn photos and all manner of rumor and innuendo. Publishers have little fear of

libel suits in the current chaotic climate. And the nation's second most popular newspaper, *Standart*—a slick tabloid published on mint-green paper—takes *USA Today* as its model. There's a profound need for at least one newspaper of record.

For centuries, Bulgaria has prided itself on being an ancient cradle of European civilization. Such spectacles as Roman amphitheaters, gypsies with dancing bears, and descendants of Thracian bacchanalians dancing on hot coals ought to be drawing tourists. So should a picturesque Black Sea coast known as the "Florida of Europe." But visitors aren't coming. Why not?

Take Varna, the resort city I visited, which was once called Stalin. Although he is long dead, his legacy lingers. My hotel, the Odessa, looked more like a slum housing project, with lights turned off to conserve electricity and Russian and Ukrainian hookers roaming the halls. Lack of air-conditioning and broken plumbing hardly make this place a magnet for tourist dollars. Down the coast, a luxury resort called St. Konstantin and Elena offers glitzy accommodations, but the word on the

street is that it is being taken over by organized crime.

A recent UNICEF report noted that the homicide rate in eastern Europe is now well above that of the United States. Goiter, a condition caused by iodine deficiency that leads to mental and growth retardation, is as bad in Bulgaria as in central Africa. There is one bright spot, however: Because industrial output is down, the ravaged environment is starting to cleanse itself by default.

Under these bleak conditions, Bulgarian writers continue to exercise their sardonic, world-weary sense of humor. One told a story of his countrymen turned panhandlers in the Paris Metro. They were calling out, "Spare change for the victims of Ceausescu!"

Asked "How come you're speaking Bulgarian?" they replied: "We're so pathetic, no one recognizes the name of our dictator!"

Susan Ruel, an assistant professor of journalism at the University of Delaware, spent part of last summer studying Bulgaria's media on a grant from the U.S. Information Agency.

Experts Puncture Myths about Foreign Health Care Systems

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panies, and a number of OPC members.

Dr. Robert Michels, chairman of Cornell Medical School, Dr. Madsen Pirie, president of London's Adam Smith Institute, and Dr. Wilfried Prew, an economist who heads the Hanover Chamber of Industry and Commerce, spoke at the event. Their remarks came a week after Republicans seized control of Congress - as well as the domestic policy agenda.

OPC vice president Janice Castro, *Time* magazine's health care writer and author of *The American Way of Health*, moderated the discussion.

Both Dr. Pirie and Dr. Prew noted that while their countries' systems manage to cover nearly everyone, they do so through a system of explicit rationing that is growing more severe as medical costs continue to rise.

In Britain, for example, no one over

the age of 45 can receive a kidney transplant, while no one over 60 is allowed to have a coronary bypass. In Germany, rigorous efforts to control costs have led to the elimination of some medical benefits and steady increases in taxes (currently 13.2% of payroll).

Dr. Michels noted that when one of his eminent colleagues recently travelled to Britain to receive an award for his contributions to medical research, he faced a life-threatening emergency: health officials refused to provide kidney dialysis because he was over the British age limit.

"We made a few transatlantic calls to members of Parliament to make sure that he would live long enough to get home again," Michels said.

Dr. Prew criticized the impracticality of the Clinton health plan, agreeing with Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan's assessment that the Administration's financing provisions were "fantasy."

The Clinton plan, said Dr. Prew, was closely modelled on the German health system. Prew believes his

country's government-run system must change or it will eventually collapse for lack of funding. If current demographic trends continue, he noted, in less than 40 years there will be only one tax-paying worker for every German retiree.

Dr. Michels expressed alarm at the rapid growth of managed care in the United States. (Some seven out of 10 insured Americans are now covered by managed care plans.) The problem is "managed care has no interest in funding research or education," he said. Unless provisions are made to ensure their continued funding, "a hundred years from now we will be providing the same technology we have today, but less well-trained physicians and professionals will be providing it."

Not only Americans have reason to be concerned by the growth of market-oriented medicine, Dr. Pirie said. In an effort to control costs and improve quality, Britain is moving rapidly to adopt American-style managed care.

Pirie said that 60% of all British citizens already receive their health care through HMO-like plans. While such

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Vietnam Visit Turns Into Personal Journey

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meeting.)

My memories of the Vietnam War were the nightly death tolls read out by television reporters, footage of a Buddhist monk on fire, my mother whispering to my father that her bridge club partner had lost a son. As a college student, I visited the monument in Washington, D.C. and pressed my cheek against the cold black slab of marble, amazed at the number of names etched there. All these people, and the thousands of Vietnamese that had died. What a waste. The Vietnam War. The One We Lost.

But I had never been directly involved, so I was surprised by the depth of my emotion when I reached Vietnam. For me, these were not big, powerful rushes of anger or regret or sorrow based on profound thoughts. Mine were small, perplexing feelings stirred by trivial things: the smell of must in an old hotel, the staccato of the language, the flounce of a woman's tunic.

...

We were at the War Crimes Museum, a dingy, dark hall full of tattered flags and rusting weapons. I was walking backwards shooting James Kean, one of the Marines, as he browsed. The solitary staff person, who had been sleeping soundly when we arrived, was now playing production assistant, running ahead of us, switching on lights with great enthusiasm. We paused in front of a grainy photograph of a helicopter landing during the war. This one had been caught on film by some nameless photographer. Kean was describing the chopper to me when he recognized the man in the photo.

"That's me," he said. "I can't believe it."

He bent close to be sure. I held my shot. He laughed. Clearly, the photo took him back to that day. He suddenly remembered exactly when it was taken.

Then he straightened up and looked very serious. His face turned away from the camera, forgetting that this was television. It was only later when I played back the tape that I could hear his next line.

"I'm a war criminal in these people's museum. To them, I'm a war criminal."

LETTERS

As a member of the OPC, I have followed with approval the work of your Freedom of the Press Committee for years.

The American Club of Paris is holding a series of breakfast meetings with ambassadors who represent their governments to the Republic of France. On Nov. 8 the guest was Tansug Bleda, the Turkish ambassador.

In the question period, I stood and read aloud the letter which your committee recommended addressing to President Suleyman Demirel of Turkey.



...

Saigon is hot in the morning, wet in the afternoons. The roof of the U.S. Embassy had to have been the hottest spot in Saigon the morning we climbed up there. The men, all different shapes and sizes, soaked in sweat, began to recall in detail the ordeal of being left behind.

"They rammed a fire truck through the front door and then came up the stairs there and someone threw a tear gas canister to keep them back," one man said.

I asked another Marine to find the spot where he spent the hours until dawn, waiting to be plucked off the roof, wondering if he had been abandoned. When I look back at my tape, I can see that he is lost in thought, his eyes moving as if he can see something I can't.

Suddenly, up there on the roof, the war was no longer something I had read about. It was very easy to think of myself as a civilian who needed to be evacuated. These men would have died for me. I remember thinking this and

His response was to dismiss these journalists as "terrorists" and their publications as cover for terrorist groups. Nevertheless, I feel that a protest of sorts was registered, along with an awakening of the American Club audience (approximately 40).

I went up to Mr. Bleda afterwards and told him that as a son of the American Revolution I came from a long line of terrorists - in the view of the British crown.

Keep up your good work.

Sincerely,
John G. Morris
Paris

being moved. It wasn't a big thought about the war or right and wrong. Just a sense of gratitude. It wasn't until later, when I got back to Manila, that I wished I would have said, "Thank you."

Editor's Note: Albor is relocating to London, where she will continue to freelance on Asia-related issues. She can be reached at 55 Elsley Road, London, SW11 5LJ or at 44-71-223-1714 (phone/fax).

Experts Puncture Myths about Foreign Health Care Systems

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health plans have proven to be efficient, delivering decent care for less, advances in research tend to slow when market medicine becomes dominant.

In the U.S., "rationing is inevitable," Dr. Michels said. The main question is how to organize it. Without health reform, managed care will ignore the 15% of Americans who are uninsured at any given time. With managed care, though, the costly U.S. way of delivering health care forces more and more Americans to go without affordable medical insurance.

As costs continue to rise, the public will continue to call for reforms. Congress may debate a new approach to health reform next year. But next time, the panel said, don't expect to find all the answers in what Dr. Pirie called "a mythical far-off empire where everyone is satisfied with the health plan. There is no such place."

RESERVATIONS FOR LODGING & MEALS AT THE TUDOR: 986-8800, 304 EAST 42ND ST.

Times Editor to Address Awards Lunch

Gene Roberts, managing editor of *The New York Times*, will speak at an Overseas Press Club Foundation lunch Jan. 26 honoring the winners of four \$1,000 scholarships.

The event will be held at the Grand Hyatt in Manhattan; tickets are \$45 for members, \$55 for non-members.

Roberts, a former correspondent and editor for the *Times* whose work included a tour of duty in Vietnam, left the *Times* to become executive editor of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, where his

staff won 17 Pulitzer prizes during his two decades at the helm.

He joined the journalism faculty of the University of Maryland two years ago, but was drafted to be the *Times*' managing editor earlier this year by Joseph Lelyveld who was named executive editor to succeed the retiring Max Frankel.

Four college students are selected for the scholarships each year by the OPC Foundation, based on essay submitted in December in which the appli-

cants describe an area of the world they feel deserves better coverage.

Reservations for the lunch should be made by Jan. 23 by calling (212) 983-4655, or by mail to the OPC, 320 E. 42nd St., New York, NY 10017. Checks should be made payable to the OPC Foundation.

The lunch also will kick off the foundation's 1995 fundraising activity. Contributions to the foundation are tax-deductible, as well as a portion of the January lunch cost.

OPC Rings in The New Year

The deadline everywhere for end-of-the-year festivities is the Twelfth Day of Christmas. We're celebrating Jan. 5 at The Tudor from 6 to 9 pm, with appropriate cymbals and drums.

Join us for the soon-to-be-annual OPC Christmas party. Spouses and progeny are our guests. We'll catch up, share satisfactions and worldly worries, and not take ourselves too seriously. Come early, stay late, enjoy a light buffet. Invitations are (almost) in the mail.

GIVE GENEROUSLY

At this time of year, we remember the OPC staff and others who have worked so hard to raise the caliber of what our club is doing. In past years, we have sent separate mailings, but the cost hardly justifies the exercise. So please cut out the following form and mail your holiday contributions to the office: OPC, Mezzanine, 320 E. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10017 USA.

Name _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE:

☐ \$15 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$40 ☐ Other _____

The Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.
320 East 42nd Street, Mezzanine
New York, NY 10017 USA

OPC X-MAS PARTY!
ON THE 12th DAY OF
CHRISTMAS
JANUARY 5
6:00 - 9:00 PM

The Tudor
RSVP (212) 983-4655